

The President's Daily Brief

29 November 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 November 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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The South Vietnamese drive in northern Quang Tri Province continues to meet stiff resistance. Fresh government units nevertheless have regained territory recently lost near the coast and have renewed their advance. *(Page 2)*

Lao irregulars are pushing ahead with their campaign to recapture territory in the south. *(Page 3)*

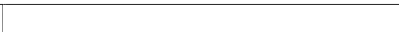


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Minor losses for the Christian Democratic and Liberal parties in scattered local elections have jolted Italian Prime Minister Andreotti's fragile coalition government. *(Page 4)*



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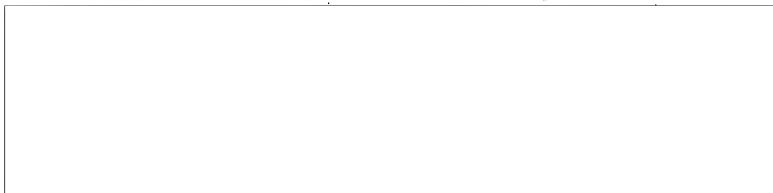
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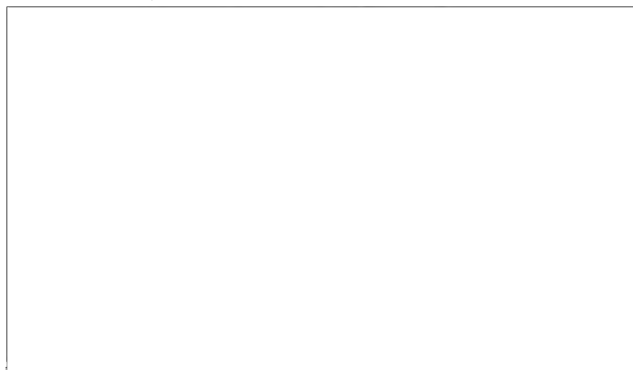
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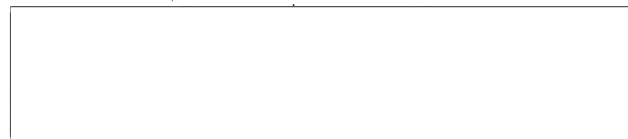
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SOUTH VIETNAM

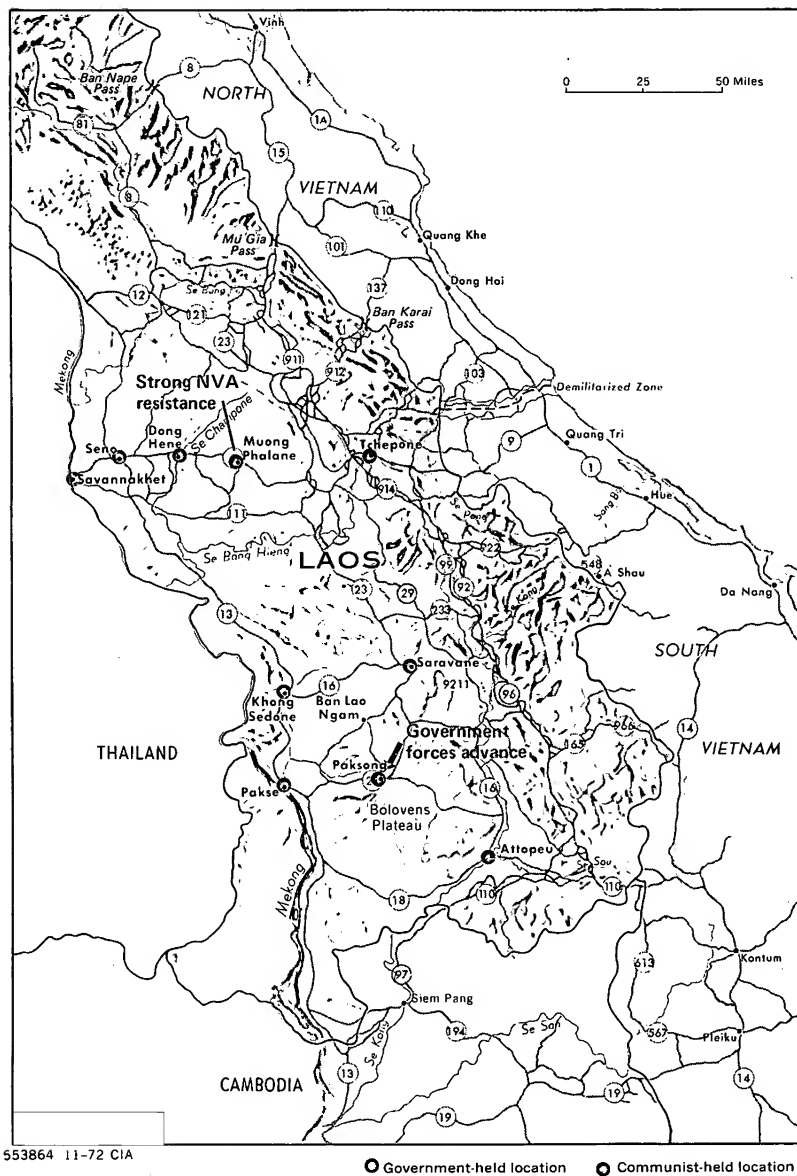
The government's military drive in northern Quang Tri Province continues to meet stiff resistance. Fresh government units nevertheless have regained territory recently lost near the coast below the Cua Viet River and have renewed their advance.

Recently captured prisoners report that Communist divisions have received numerous replacements. Some may now be near normal strength for the first time in many months. Also, intercepts and prisoner reports indicate that new equipment, including tanks and artillery, has arrived.

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In many parts of the country the Communists are relying on terrorist tactics to sustain their position during the current period of uncertainty about a cease-fire. The targets are mostly soldiers, police, and local officials.

We expect the Communists to pursue these relatively inexpensive tactics in the weeks ahead as they seek to rest and re-fit many of their major combat units.



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LAOS

Irregular forces have launched an operation to retake Paksong, the principal town on the Bolovens Plateau held by the Communists for nearly a year. Seven battalions dispersed a small Communist blocking force and on 27 November had advanced to within eight miles of the town. Only one untested North Vietnamese battalion is now at Paksong, but intercepts indicate that at least one of three enemy battalions near Ban Lao Ngam has been ordered to move to meet the government threat.

North of the Bolovens, irregulars are clashing sporadically with Communist units near Saravane, a provincial capital recaptured by the government last week. Although four North Vietnamese battalions remain nearby, heavy casualties have forced these units to rest and refit before attempting to retake the town.

In the central panhandle, a 12-battalion irregular force is encountering strong resistance from elements of a North Vietnamese regiment entrenched in the village of Muong Phalane on Route 9.

The Communists can be expected to put up a determined defense in the Muong Phalane area in order to forestall any government moves against the Ho Chi Minh trail complex directly to the east.

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NOTES

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Italy: Minor losses for the Christian Democratic and Liberal parties in scattered local elections have jolted Prime Minister Andreotti's fragile coalition government. Although only about one-tenth of the electorate was involved, the election has taken on national importance as the first test of public opinion since the national election last May. The pattern of results will strengthen the argument for inviting the Socialists back into the government in another center-left coalition.

Greece:

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The Yemens: The two Yemens signed an agreement in Tripoli yesterday to form a single state, called the Yemeni Republic, with the capital at Sana. Despite this initial progress, much remains to be done before actual unity is achieved, and reconciling Aden's Marxism with Sana's more traditional government will not be easy.

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